

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board  
Meeting Summary  
March 5, 2010

GA Auditorium  
Olympia, WA

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Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
Whidbey Basin	Gary	Rowe
Hood Canal	Teri	King
South Central Puget Sound	Susan	Saffery
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest	Sam	Anderson
Small Business	Bill	Dewey
Environmental Interest	Dave	Peeler
Environmental Interest	Jacques	White
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Tribal Government	Randy	Kinley
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Federal Government	Elizabeth	Babcock
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Josh	Baldi
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Lisa	Veneroso
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Naki	Stevens
NW Straits Commission	Ginny	Broadhurst

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*It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting.  
A recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.*

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**Action Items:**

- Approval of January 21, 2010, Meeting Summary
- Approve creation of an ECB Stormwater Work Group

**Meeting Summary:**

- Shoreline Workgroup *briefing*
- Performance Management *discussion and advice*
- 2010 Legislative Session *review*
- Agency and ECB member *updates*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) vice-chair Dave Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2010 MEETING SUMMARY**

Dan Wrye requested clarification of the partner designation role language on page 2 Panel Basics - Roles.

It was also pointed out that on page 6 Joe Henry should actually be Jo Henry.

Randy Kinley **MOVED** to approve the January 21, 2010, meeting summary as amended. Dave Troutt **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the January 21, 2010, meeting summary as amended.

## **REPORT ON ECB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS**

Joe Ryan provided an overview of the ECB Executive Committee meeting:

- In addition to the Shoreline Protection Work Group, two new work groups were suggested at the January ECB meeting ('Bold Moves' Strategies and Stormwater)
- The ECB Executive Committee (EEC) will take the lead for the 'Bold Moves' Strategies work group
- The EEC decided EPA and Ecology Stormwater work group will continue their work on this issue for now, although the ECB may create their own workgroup later
- Tom Eaton reported that EPA, Ecology, Puget Sound Partnership, and the Department of Natural Resources recently held a meeting to see if these four agencies can coordinate their stormwater work. This group will develop a strategy proposal to bring to the ECB for additional discussion and direction, probably at the July meeting
- The Partnership is hiring a consultant to work on stormwater. EPA and Ecology will help finalize the contract with deliverables and objectives
- Members of the ECB would like to know what the consultant will be commissioned to do, along with the deliverables and timeframes
- ECB members urged an ECB work group be created sooner rather than later, and they find it troubling that other groups represented in the ECB were not consulted earlier in the process
- ECB members would like to know about other stormwater efforts around the Sound and task the work group, once created, to compile current stormwater regulations and existing efforts into a coherent presentation to educate the rest of the ECB members. They also suggested the EEC decide on the mission and charter for this work group prior to identifying members

Steve Tharinger **MOVED** to create an ECB stormwater work group. Randy Kinley **SECONDED** the motion. Board **APPROVED**.

An invitation to join this group will be sent to ECB members. It will include a request to say why they wish to be on this workgroup. The EEC will need to put the sideboards together for this group's mission and timelines. It was suggested this be a less formal group than the shorelines workgroup, and that ECB members lead the effort with Tammy Owings' scheduling assistance.

### **SHORELINE WORK GROUP**

David Troutt, chair of the Shorelines Workgroup, provided an overview of shoreline issues, tribal concerns, and first meeting of the ECB Shorelines Work Group. The objective of the Workgroup is to provide recommendations for consideration at the next ECB meeting. He believes this first meeting was successful.

Gordon White provided an overview of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP). He talked about the importance of shorelines and how the SMP provides for three things: 1. protection of the environment, 2. water access, and 3. water dependent businesses. The SMP also provides rules for local governments. Gordon explained how the new SMP is increasing the set back, updating bulkhead standards, and integrating restoration strategies for land use.

Gordon noted that although the new SMP includes a statement about locating bulkheads where needed (and this is open to interpretation) it is a way to change the public standard. The construction industry knows how to install soft armoring, and his goal is to change the public standard from bulkheads to soft armoring.

He noted Ecology's need to continue receiving full funding in order to continue working with local governments on this issue.

ECB members asked if there are incentives in place to help people transition from hard to soft armoring, and noted that sometimes the required permits cost more than the work itself. Perhaps technical assistance should be provided as incentive. It is challenging for people to test new techniques, especially when they doubt those techniques will protect their property.

Gordon noted proposed changes to the Open Space Tax Act, which provides credit for putting land into open space would provide tax credit to both public and private landowners removing hard armoring. He also agreed that providing technical assistance is a good idea.

Tim Quinn promised the support and assistance of the Science Panel in answering science-based questions. He then provided an overview of the shoreline continuum, explained sediment dynamics (the different shoreline environments and actions) and told how humans affect this process. He asked the group if they had a definition for “no net loss.”

Naki Stevens responded to the “no net loss” question. It is estimated 1.5 miles of new structures and 2.5 miles of replacement structures are permitted per year along Puget Sound, which means we are losing four miles per year. Currently 47.2% of the shoreline is hardened. “No net loss” means we need to limit the hardening to 47.2%.

Jacques White stated that this number is a place to start but we still need a basic “no net loss” definition. It also might be useful to list where hard armoring is located. The group discussed local efforts to develop “no net loss” plans and how to provide implementation and funding once the plans are in place.

Gordon agreed with the need to retain funding for long-term restoration plans because developing a plan is just the beginning.

Josh Baldi appreciates the discussion and Naki’s ‘no net loss’ definition. He agrees with Jacques that it is not enough; we need to move the numbers the other direction.

The ECB agreed upon the need for an integrated approach that includes funding, incentives, technical assistance, restoration, and protection elements.

Jim Kramer presented the “Protecting Puget Sound through *Shoreline Master Programs – Opportunities to Improve Protection*” draft white paper he developed with Carol McIlroy and Margaret Clancy. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided funding for development of this paper. Local government staff and officials and the Department of Ecology provided support for the effort.

The purpose of this paper is to solicit feedback from the various parties involved in shoreline management. As part of the work, a questionnaire has been developed. Jim described the questionnaire and will provide it to ECB members for response.

He reported that Ecology has agreed to support the recommended changes and provided an overview of the recommendations being put forward through the white paper. (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim noted that this white paper is the opinion of Carol, Margaret and himself, not of Ecology. They are asking for feedback from the ECB to move the work forward. He has been working for a long time on this project, which has been inspiring as well as frustrating. He suggested the group look at the work done in the San Juan’s.

Susan Saffery provided a handout created by the City of Seattle for use around Lake Washington. She thought it would be possible to adapt the brochure to provide marine areas information.

It was suggested to take the recommendations from this work and develop a public relations strategy. The group discussed the need for education and incentives. People need to know the difference between a setback and a buffer. (A setback is the distance between a structure and the shore, but a buffer is a vegetated area). In many instances a buffer is an amenity for property owners.

After this comment period ends, the next step is to develop a revised draft, a priority list of issues and a sequence for addressing them. With the support of Ecology, Clallam County and Jefferson County have requested funding through EPA for a late spring 2010 pilot project with recommendations due at the end of the year.

The ECB members asked what the Shorelines Work Group and Science Panel could do to help with the definition of the "no net loss". Jim hopes it will come out of this work and the Clallam case study. He appreciates feedback from the ECB and Science Panel and encouraged continued discussions about what needs to be measured. Providing leadership for implementation (such as the shoreline manual that Susan provided) is another place where the ECB can help. Changing shoreline management is slow moving, but there are simple things that would encourage moving things more quickly.

Dave thanked Jim and said the ECB will look forward to receiving the survey. The Shorelines Work Group will provide another report at the next ECB meeting.

## **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Tom Eaton introduced this agenda item explaining that Martha Neuman will provide the context for the performance management work, describe where we are in the process, and provide the recommendations from the Cross Partnership Workgroup. The process will then be opened for discussion. (See meeting materials for details.)

Martha first introduced the new Performance Manager for the Partnership, John Becker. John has been with the agency about three weeks and will not be presenting at this meeting.

Martha then reviewed the process used for the list of recommendations. The question was raised if the ecosystem targets and threat reduction targets will be measured separately or if they will be linked. Martha replied that they are linked but we will need to set a 2020 goal for each. She reminded the group that the list isn't final and some of the links are missing.

Members of the cross partnership work group and ECB discussed the information presented and made recommendations to:

- Prioritize the actions and focus efforts on a few of the highest priorities
- Move up the derelict gear priority
- Make the definition of surface water run-off less broad
- Include working forests
- Use the same targets for both state and national efforts
- Include more human indicators on economic impacts

The targets will be worked through the open standards process and will set the goals. As we move forward we will work on additional targets, but the ones on the list are the ones the subcommittee felt were good targets to begin with and will give the Science Panel time to continue development of targets and benchmarks.

The ECB was in general agreement with moving the list forward to the Leadership Council.

Martha then discussed the issue of scale – some threats should be Soundwide where others should be more localized.

Tom Eaton noted that it is appropriate to have both Soundwide and local targets, but we need to establish a decision-making process. He suggested that a good ECB discussion might be how to bring the targets to the local level since there are representatives from all the Action Areas on the Board.

## **2010 LEGISLATIVE**

Michael Grayum provided an update on the 2010 legislative session. (See meeting materials for details.)

Michael will provide another update after the cutoff. Josh Baldi asked Michael to include an update on the Critical Areas Ordinances bill.

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Dale Jensen, Ecology*, is pleased to see the Partnership hiring a person who will be working with groups. Although the oil spill budget has been cut, the tug remains crucial for the safety of Puget Sound waters. He described a recent incident where a vessel had problems but within 25 minutes of their phone call, it was being pulled into a Tacoma port for repair. There was difficulty finding a back-up tug to cover because there aren't many tugs available. We really need the designated tug at Neah Bay to

protect the Sound from spills. Dale explained the status of the industry contract for taking over the tug by July 1, 2010.

### **AGENCY AND ECB MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

Dave Herrera announced that this is Jacques' last meeting Jacques responded that it has been an honor working with the ECB and he will miss it. He looks forward to his new position at Long Live the Kings.

Dan Wrye informed the board that he will host a meeting on March 23 with tribal and elected officials for the purpose of discussing the possibility of forming a more official group in South Puget Sound. Pierce County received a small grant from EPA, which they will use to provide funds to Action Area counties so they might participate in such a group.

Naki Stevens reported that the Department of Natural Resources will have eelgrass targets by the end of April 2010.

Bill Dewey noted that he recently attended a conference about, and payments for, ecosystem services. This was very good information and suggested the Partnership take this on. He will send follow-up information.

For those who submitted grant applications to EPA, Tom Eaton remarked that they are on track and EPA should be able to notify recipients next week.

Dave Peeler invited everyone to the May 18<sup>th</sup> People for Puget Sound Breakfast.

**3:00 p.m. ADJOURN**

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval

  
Dave Somers, Chair

5/6/2010  
Date

Next Meeting: May 6, 2010  
Tukwila Community Center  
Tukwila, Washington